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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 085321

12
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ RA: LTC TLGRIFFIN: PCS
5-4-73 EXT 21191
APPROVED BY AF/ RA- LTC TLGRIFFIN
---------- 114886
R 042204 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085321

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

" R 271554 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7996
INFO: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION NATO
CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 2385

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, IT, LY
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN MED - LIBYAN DANGER AREAS

REF: A. ROME 7648; B. ROME 6893

1. CITING LAST WEEK' S LIBYAN ATTACK ON USAF C-130,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DA RIN) HAS AGAIN RAISED WITH
US ITALIAN RESERVATIONS OVER NATO POSITION ON HANDLING OF
LIBYAN DANGER AREAS QUESTION. UNABLE TO AVOID A " WE- TOLD-
YOU- SO" TONE, DA RIN OBSERVED THAT INCIDENT, WHICH
APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE LARG HAD
" WARNED" US ABOUT, WAS PRECISELY THE SORT OF THING
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ITALIANS HAD IN MIND WHEN THEY RECOMMENDED THAT NATO GIVE

FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO FORMALLY PUTTING LIBYANS ON
NOTICE THAT ALLIES REJECTED ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT
DANGER AREAS AS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

2. DA RIN REMINDED US (REFTELS) THAT ITALIAN CONCERN
WITH DECISION NOT TO RAISE ISSUE WITH LARG WAS BASED ON
FEAR THAT, IN EVENT OF AN INCIDENT, LIBYANS COULD CLAIM
THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS OURS IN THAT WE HAD BEEN FORE-
WARNED AND HAD NOT EXPLICITLY OBJECTED. IN THIS
CONNECTION, DA RIN NOTED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD STATED
THAT THE U. S. HAD INFORMED LARG " PRIVATELY" THAT IT
REJECTED ATTEMPT TO INFRINGE UPON FREEDOM OF AIR SPACE OVER
HIGH SEAS. ITALIANS DOUBT LARGN AND SECOND MATE AND BETWEEN
CHINESE AND FILIPINO
CREWMEN, BUT SITUATION STILL UNCLEAR. APPARENTLY NO
INJURIES. MR. SEOW AND US AUTHORITIES ARE PROCEEDING
WITH INVESTIGATION.

5. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY FURTHER COMPLICATIONS,
BUT WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF ANY IMPORTANT
DEVELOPMENTS. RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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